

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 56, line 18 with the following paragraph.

61 Fig. 33 schematically represents resection unit 1406 of probe 1400, wherein resection unit 1406 includes a resection electrode 1410 on a resection electrode support member 1408. In Fig. 33 resection electrode 1410 is represented as a single "box" located within support 1408, however, other arrangements and numbers of resection electrode 1410 are contemplated and are within the scope of the invention (see, for example, Figs. 36A-F, Figs. 41A-C). Resection electrode support 1408 may comprise an electrically insulating, and durable or refractory material, such as a glass, a ceramic, a silicone, a polyurethane, a urethane, a polyimide, silicon nitride, ~~teflon~~ TEFLON, or alumina, and the like. Resection electrode support 1408 is shown in Fig. 33 as being substantially square in outline, however, a broad range of other shapes are also possible. The size of resection electrode support 1408 may depend on a number of factors, including the diameter or width of shaft 1402. In one embodiment, support 1408 may be mounted laterally on shaft 1402 as an annular band, i.e., support 1408 may completely encircle shaft 1402. Typically support 1408 represents or occupies from about 2% to 100% of the circumference of shaft 1402. More typically, support 1408 occupies from about 50% to 80% of the circumference of shaft 1402, most typically from about 10% to 50% of the circumference of shaft 1402. In embodiments wherein support 1408 is mounted terminally on shaft 1402, support 1408 typically occupies from about 5% to 100% of the cross-sectional area of shaft 1402, more typically from about 10% to 95% of the cross-sectional area of shaft 1402.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 70, line 3 with the following paragraph.

A² In one embodiment, the method includes step 1702 which involves encasing a portion of the shaft within an insulating sleeve to provide an electrically insulated proximal portion of the shaft and an exposed distal portion of the shaft. The exposed distal portion of the shaft defines a return electrode of the probe. The insulating sleeve typically comprises a substantially cylindrical length of a flexible insulating material such as polytetrafluoroethylene, a polyimide, and the like. Such flexible insulating materials are well known in the art. In one embodiment, the resection electrode support is disposed on the return electrode. The resection electrode support typically comprises an electrically insulating material such as a glass, a ceramic, a silicone, a polyurethane, a urethane, a polyimide, silicon nitride, ~~teflon~~ TEFLON, alumina, or the like. The electrode support serves to electrically insulate the at least one resection electrode head from the return electrode. Step 1704 involves providing a handle having a connection block. Step 1706 involves coupling the resection electrodes and the digestion electrodes to the connection block. The connection block provides a convenient mechanism by which the resection and digestion electrodes may be coupled to a high frequency power supply. Step 1708 involves affixing the shaft proximal end to the handle.